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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2002.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL K. SIMPSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord of light and majesty, a few weeks ago this Chamber prayed for Your blessing and protection upon the Olympic Winter Games before the torch was lighted. We confess that often enough we cry out to You when in need, and sometimes forget to return to You to offer thanks.

Today, Lord, we praise and thank You as the Lord God who made heaven and Earth, who granted peace and security to the Olympics in Salt Lake City.

We know You will bless and provide a just reward to the God-fearing people of Utah for all their labor in hosting the Olympics. We are grateful You have granted safe travel to all who attended the games, and brought them home to be received with joy and peace.

During the games, many young people around the globe came to see themselves as children of light, bringing new life and reconciliation to an aching world. May the Olympians throughout their lifetime be ambassadors of friendship and fair play beyond national borders. Knowing the importance of good order and abiding by the

rules, and having glimpsed the glory of a community born of freedom and excellence, may they bring to people of all ages a spirit that will build upon yesterday's joys and tomorrow's hopes for a world free of drugs, addictions, and compulsions, even that of always winning or being first.

We seek such freedom from You, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GANSKE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

DEFENDING THE TRADITIONAL VALUES COALITION

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, last month we saw a clear example of irresponsible journalism. In January, National Public Radio aired a story that inappropriately linked the Traditional Values Coalition to the anthrax terror attacks against the Senate, but the NPR story did not present any credible evidence to support the awful association they suggested.

NPR's conduct is outrageous and ignores their basic responsibilities as

journalists: presenting the facts to the public accurately and without bias. There was no legitimate justification for including TVC in the story describing the anthrax investigation. The only plausible explanation is an attempt by NPR to practice guilt by association.

I have worked with the Traditional Values Coalition for many years. They are a principled, compassionate, Christian organization which speaks for 43,000 member churches from across the United States. The Traditional Values Coalition is dedicated to defending the sanctity of life and upholding the dignity of every individual.

NPR needs to hold itself to far higher standards. By inserting a group without any possible connection to the anthrax attack into its report, NPR raised serious questions about their presentation of the news. NPR should be cautious about the damage that can be done to a group's reputation by similar association.

The public should expect responsible reporting from NPR, and they ought to demand it of themselves.

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF DANIELLE VAN DAM, AND URGING MEMBERS TO JOIN THE CONGRESSIONAL MISSING AND EXPLOITED CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children to express my condolences to the family and the friends of Danielle van Dam. As an activist on the issue of missing kids, far too often I have seen parents who have had to deal with this tragedy. I have seen communities mobilized to search for a child who has not come home from school or disappeared from home.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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We must continue to work hard to educate and protect America's children from exploitation. I urge all Members to go back to their offices and log onto www.missingkids.org and find out how we can talk to our children and what we can do to help in our communities. Our efforts to prevent crimes against children have not kept pace with the increasing vulnerability of our young citizens.

Please contact my office if Members are not already a member of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children. Our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews are counting on Members to give them a voice in Washington, as are people like Ludwig Koons, who is being kept illegally in Italy with little or no help from the Italian Government or the United States State Department. We must bring our children home.

RECOGNIZING MIAMI DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR ITS PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE MDCC SCHOOL OF JUSTICE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate a special higher education center located in my congressional district, Miami Dade Community College, which operates six campuses, two major outreach centers, and additional instruction sites, including a center at Miami International Airport.

Run by Dr. Eduardo Padron, the college has a wide variety of departments, including the much-acclaimed School of Justice. Each year, Miami Dade Community College's School of Justice provides training for over 350 law enforcement recruits, in-service training for over 3,000 sworn officers, and 2,500 State of Florida-certified security officers.

Additionally, the School of Justice has developed and administered over 170 law enforcement assessment and testing programs to 25 State agencies since 1981. The FBI and the London Metropolitan Police have used Miami Dade Community College's programs as a benchmark.

Please join me in congratulating and recognizing Miami Dade Community College's School of Justice, and especially Debbie Goodman, the school Chair; Robert Calabrese, the interim director; Ron Forester, the deputy director; but most especially, Dr. Eduardo Padron.

NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO

(Mr. FOLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, following up on the comments of the majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

DELAY), I am also concerned about what has happened here with NPR.

Although I had supported NPR's public funding in the past, I know when someone has been wronged. It does not matter if it is the Traditional Values Coalition or the ACLU, right or left wing, they simply did not deserve to be treated this way, to be forced to prove or disprove a negative.

America is still recovering from September 11, and the fight ought to be Americans versus terrorists, not Americans versus Americans. When such reckless, irresponsible accusations are pulled out of thin air, we are doing exactly what Osama bin Laden would like us to do, to turn on each other.

I am happy to see NPR has technically apologized. I can only hope they do so again much more loudly and much more often. It is a disgrace to journalism to make such a reckless accusation against a fine organization operating in this country.

I insist, before I continue to support their organizations, that they, in fact, do apologize more forcefully.

HATS OFF TO WADE SATERN AND ANDY ROUSCH, AND ALL KIDS WHO QUALIFY FOR THEIR STATE HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS

(Mr. GANSKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, hats are off to all the kids who qualify for their State high school wrestling tournaments across the country. We ex-high school and college wrestlers now in Congress know the hard work those accomplishments take.

However, I want to especially recognize two individuals. Wade Satern, of Humboldt, Iowa, won the 119-pound class 2-A championship, and Andrew "Andy" Rousch of Wilton, Iowa, placed third at 103 pounds in class 1-A.

Each of these young men wrestled with only one leg. Satern lost his leg as an infant; and he has said, "I earned it just like any other kid earns a State championship: I worked my tail off. I personally do not feel like I am handicapped."

The Speaker of the House, an ex-wrestling coach himself, joins me in saying to these young men, congratulations for a job well done.

NPR BREAKS TRUST WITH AMERICANS WITH IRRESPONSIBLE REPORTING

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, in a report already mentioned today on Morning Edition, NPR implied, as we have already heard, that a conservative group, the Traditional Values Coalition, was involved in the anthrax mailings to the

Senate because they disagreed with two members of that body on a religious issue.

The first amendment to the Constitution of the United States establishes the freedom of the press, forbidding the Congress to make any law abridging the right of the press to speak freely.

I, like all of us, am a true believer in the Constitution and what it stands for. However, I believe that with this freedom comes responsibility, the responsibility of the press to report accurately and in an unbiased manner the facts of an issue. This trust is compounded in the case of public television and public radio in that they receive taxpayer dollars to fund part of their operations.

On the morning of January 22, NPR broke their contract with the American people by reporting hearsay as fact. They did their fellow journalists and their listeners a grave disservice. In this case, the United States taxpayers did not get what they paid for. This report was completely inaccurate and irresponsible.

As I have stated, the press has a responsibility to report the facts, not unproven accusations. Two results should emerge from our 1-minutes today: one, NPR should issue an equally public apology to the Traditional Values Coalition; and, two, Congress should look long and hard at the recipients of taxpayer dollars.

NPR CROSSED THE LINE FROM BIAS TO OUTRIGHT LIBEL IN INACCURATE COMMENT ON TRADITIONAL VALUES COALITION

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, like most Americans, I have become jaded to the fact that the news media uses the airways to promote their liberal agenda. But when National Public Radio made a thinly veiled accusation that the Traditional Values Coalition could be responsible for the anthrax attacks on Capitol Hill, they crossed the line from simple bias to outright libel.

Mr. Speaker, the thousands of men and women who make up the Traditional Values Coalition are our neighbors, our fellow churchgoers. They are the people who responded to our national emergency by giving their money, clothes, food, time, and even their blood to the victims of September 11. But to NPR, they are simply accused terrorists.

In the end, while the people of the Traditional Values Coalition practice the American ideals of charity and compassion, NPR continues to practice their traditional values: shameful pettiness and slanderous lies.